WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A traffic monitoring system comprising: a plurality of active monitors each tapping a physical line on a network and analyzing traffic; and a manager collecting analysis results from said active monitors, respectively, wherein said manager comprises:

means for loading a management application program for managing the respective active monitors to the manager itself;

means for executing said management application program;

means for delivering a traffic analysis program to each of said active monitors; and

means for communicating with said active monitors, each of said active monitors comprises:

means for loading the traffic analysis program delivered from said manager to the active monitor itself;

means for executing said traffic analysis program; and

means for communicating with said manager, and wherein each of said active monitors provides a traffic analysis result to said manager through said communication means in response to a request from said manager.

2. A traffic monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein

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said manager further comprises means for unloading said management application program.

5   3. A traffic monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein

each of said active monitors further comprises means for unloading said traffic analysis program in response to a request from said manager.

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4. A traffic monitoring method comprising: a plurality of active monitors each tapping a physical line on a network and analyzing traffic; and a manager collecting analysis

15   results from said active monitors, respectively, the method comprising the steps of:

allowing said manager to load and execute a management application program;

allowing said manager to request said active monitors

20   to load a traffic analysis program;

allowing said active monitors to load and execute the traffic analysis program in response to said load request;

allowing said manager to request the active monitors to collect analysis results; and

25   allowing said active monitors to provide the analysis results to the manager in response to said request,

respectively.

5. A traffic monitoring method according to claim 4,
further comprising the steps of:

allowing said manager to request said active monitor
to unload said traffic analysis program; and

allowing said active monitors to unload the traffic
analysis program in response to said unload request.

6. A traffic monitoring method according to claim 5,
further comprising a step of allowing said manager to unload
the management application program from the manager itself.

7. A traffic monitoring system according to claim 4,
wherein

said manager holds topology information concerned
about the respective active monitors on a network, and
manages traffic based on the analysis results collected from
said respective active monitors and said topology
information.

8. A traffic monitoring system according to claim 4,

further comprising a step of changing operation parameters
for the traffic analysis program, the traffic analysis
program now being executed by each of the active monitors.

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9. A traffic monitoring system according to claim 4,
wherein

each of said active monitors identifies a packet and
a protocol under control of said traffic analysis program.

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